AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0004] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Special problems, however, face the law enforcement officer attempting to input license plate information for search in a database. Recognition error rates remain high, particularly in noisy conditions frequently experienced by such officers. Common sources of noise include sirens, radio chatter, screeching tires, horns, and even gunfire. Emotional factors may also affect the quality of the speech (e.g. stress) making it more difficult to recognize. Adding to the difficulty of the situation, officers cannot always acquire the entire license plate information (including state, year and number) all at once. They must instead physically maneuver to facilitate visual inspection and acquisition of a few characters at a time. An officer attempting to enter a license plate number under the method taught by ~~Ishee~~Ishii et al., for example, might first read in two characters of the plate. Then, upon pausing, the officer might read in a third character and replace the first two characters with the third character, thereby foiling entry of the data. Alternatively, under the same method, the officer may attempt to enter the entire plate at once and rely upon flawless speech recognition. Such flawless speech recognition remains highly unlikely under the adverse conditions frequently experienced by officers. Therefore, addressing the special needs for efficient, safe and reliable data entry by voice under adverse conditions remains the task of the present invention.